Band students learn music and culture on trip

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For a student to learn the music of another culture is always interesting, but to perform it in the very country where that music originated is a different story. That is precisely what happened when a group of Southern Illinois University students were invited to Trinidad, home of the steel band.

I had the opportunity to speak with some of the students from the Percussion program about the experience. Dan Smithiger, the department of music at SIU, said, "I was able to bring some of our students to Trinidad to perform in a steel band."

"The recommendation was approved and will be up for approval by the Administrative and Community Services Committee."

"But . . . there are other steel bands in the world, so it is important to have some kind of exposure to world music."

"It'll be a drop-in, open-house kind of thing," said Ellen Gale, executive director of the Clayton Chamber of Commerce. "For more information about the museum, call 618-725-2000."